



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 10:30 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Lauwers called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Lauwers, Cole, Franz, Glardon, Johnson, Outman, Rendon, Courser, B. Roberts, Sheppard, Vaupel, Darany, Talabi, Driskell, LaVoy, Garrett.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Brunner.

Representative Cole made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of February 25, 2015. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Darany made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

Presentations were provided to the Committee by:

*Rebecca Park and Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau (a discussion of Accurate Ag Books for March is Reading Month)

*David Milligan, Chairman and Jody E. Pollok-Newsom, Executive Director, Michigan Wheat Program: the Michigan Wheat Program (value-added uses, processing infrastructure, production areas in Michigan, history of the Michigan wheat program, getting started, strategic plan focus areas, the mission of the Michigan Wheat Program, research and research programs, research funding, research categories, production issues, education and communication, consumer education, consumer fact-finding, on Facebook, the Michigan Restaurant Show, a Taste of Home Show, promotion, market development and the future)

*Mike Wenke, representing the Michigan Potato Industry Commission: (the Michigan Potato Industry, Michigan Production, potato utilization, processing, Michigan as a supplier of potato chips, the Michigan Potato Commission, structure, Commission committees, research, potato research (2010-2014), educational efforts, the salad bar challenge, potato-related issues, and the future of the industry)

*Jim Zook, Executive Director of the Michigan Corn Growers Association: (Michigan corn, the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan, the Michigan Corn Growers Association, growing production, what is grown, types of corn, where Michigan corn is grown, acres harvested,

Michigan corn production, Michigan corn usage, farm gate value to the state, equipment and technology)

Subsequent to discussion, Chair Lauwers declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:57 a.m.

Representative Dan Lauwers, Committee Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538